



# Happy Holidays



## Foggy Bottom News

December 1991

Published for and by the Citizens of Foggy Bottom

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### FB Residents Testify at Zoning Commission



ANC representatives Richard Netler, Eileen McCarthy, Sara Maddux and Edward Kelly prepare for their testimony at Zoning Commission hearing.

On Thursday, November 14, the Zoning Commission, at its second hearing on the IMF/Western Presbyterian case, heard testimony from FB residents. The major presentation was by the Foggy Bottom/West End Advisory Neighborhood Commission, represented by Chair Edward Kelly, Commis-

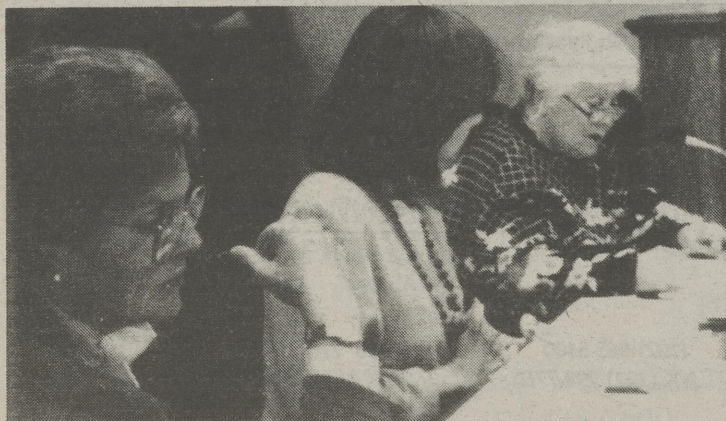
sioner Sara Maddux, and Ellen McCarthy, the ANC's urban planning consultant. Kelly, in brief introductory remarks, pointed out that even though the Zoning Commission had requested it, the applicants had not made any attempts at real negotiation with the neighborhood. Among the points in

Commissioner's Maddux's statement was the excessive size of the building; (the average size of offices is to be 425 square feet; the average U.S. government office is 153 square feet). She also pointed out that a standard goal of the granting of zoning variances is increased employment opportunity for D.C. citizens, but that the PUD application had been silent on that score.

McCarthy pointed out that the project is not really an economic development, since the building would be filled with employees moving from rented space to non-taxable space. McCarthy also noted the historic significance of Western Presbyterian Church, and added that green, open space will be destroyed, the amenity package being offered by IMF is "virtually non-existent," and the additional FAR requested is excessive.

Chris Lamb, president of the Foggy Bottom Association, presented a statement on behalf of the Association, also in strong opposition.

Also testifying were area residents ANC Commissioner Maria Tyler; Mary Healy and Joan Clark of Potomac Plaza; Ramona Lauda and Joanne Rowe of Potomac Plaza Terraces; Allan Beckenstein of the Plaza; Irene Parsons, Kirsten Olsen, Barbara Kahlow and Kerry Stowell.



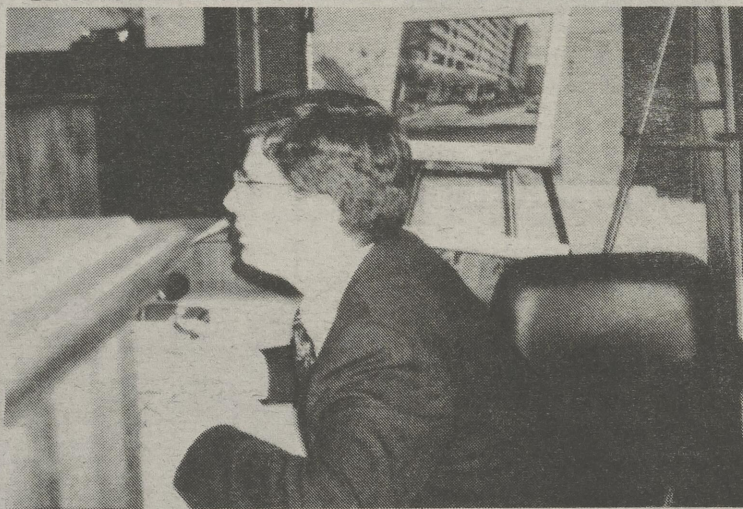
Joan Clark, Ramona Lauda listen to Mary Healy's testimony.

### PLEASE ATTEND!

Preservation Hearing December 18  
Carnegie Library  
8th & K Streets, N.W.

The hearing by the Historic Preservation Review Board on the FBA's and ANC's application to designate Western Presbyterian Church as a historic landmark will be held on December 18. The hearing starts at 9:30 a.m.; the exact time this application will be heard is not certain, but attempts are being made to find out more. It is VERY IMPORTANT to have a strong neighborhood presence at this hearing to show our support for this application.

**BE THERE AND SUPPORT THE FBA AND ANC APPLICATION.**



FBA President Chris Lamb presents the Association's opposition to the IMF proposal.

### SPECIAL ISSUE

The Foggy Bottom News does not usually have a December issue. It was judged necessary to make sure the community was informed about the December 18 hearing. Since it is a special issue, many of our regular advertisers do not appear this time; look for them when the regular schedule begins again with the February issue, due out in late January.

There have been some changes made in the *FBNews* masthead. Kerry Stowell has resigned her position as Editor, and her efforts over the past several months were appreciated. Former Editor Ellie Becker has taken over in the interim.







## Evans Reports on IMF/Western Proposals

Ward 2 Councilmember Jack Evans recently wrote to report on his activities concerning the IMF Zoning Commission case. It is excerpted here because we believe his descriptions of various aspects of the matter are concise and helpful, especially to residents not steeped in zoning knowledge.

As you know, the Church has made an agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for the following: (1) the IMF will purchase the land currently occupied by the Church at 19th & H Streets, NW in order to accommodate an expansion of the IMF; (2) the IMF will purchase and pay for the relocation of the Church to a site at 24th & G Streets, NW; and, (3) the IMF will provide the Church with an endowment of \$4 million, which the Church may use for any purposes it deems appropriate.

To help you understand what these steps are and what specific action I am taking or intend to

take, following is a brief explanation of each.

**D.C. Zoning Commission:** In order for the IMF to expand on to the property currently occupied by the Church, it must get the approval of the D.C. Zoning Commission. This approval relates to allowing the height and size of the building as proposed, in exchange for the IMF providing to the community so-called "amenities." Therefore, if the Zoning Commission determines that the amenities are sufficient, it will allow/approve the building as proposed by the IMF. The Zoning Commission heard this matter on November 14, 1991. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Zoning Chairman asked that the parties try to reach some agreement and a deadline of December 12th has been given for this purpose. This means that the earliest date a decision could possibly be rendered by the Zoning Commission is January 13,

1992. I entered, for the record, a letter expressing my opposition and urged the Zoning Commission not to approve the IMF's proposal unless Miriam's Kitchen is retained at or near its present location.

**D.C. City Council re: Alley Closing:** If the Zoning Commission should find in favor of the IMF, the next step is that an alley located on the property must be closed. The City Council approves the closing of all alleys throughout the City and, frankly, most are closed with little or no fanfare. In this case, a public hearing is not required; however, I have written to the Chairperson of the relevant committee, Ward 4 Councilmember Charlene Drew Jarvis, to request that a hearing be held in order to allow the community to express its views on the matter. I have been informed by Mrs. Jarvis that a hearing will be set down in January, 1992. I shall advise you once a definitive date has been established in the event you are interested in testifying.

**Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB):** This step is not re-

## You Read It in the Record

Often there is criticism about entries in the *Congressional Record*, but just as often you find some good reading. Last spring there was an insert on point and very pertinent to a current Foggy Bottom issue:

### THE ARROGANCE OF THE FEDERAL BUREAUCRACY

Mr. DUNCAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, the arrogance of some members of the Federal bureaucracy never ceases to amaze me. They seem to care very little for the American taxpayer.

The latest ridiculous expenditure is an agreement on the part of the International Monetary Fund, which is funded largely by the U.S. taxpayer, to pay \$24 million to buy a one-quarter acre piece of vacant property in downtown Washington to expand their headquarters. This is 2 1/2 times the assessed value of this property. This is a ridiculous expenditure.

Just think of how many poor people could be helped, how much good could be done with this \$24 million. . . .

Madam Speaker, \$24 million is just too much for a one-quarter acre piece of property, with no building on it. A church there now will be moved.

We should substantially reduce the appropriations for the International Monetary Fund if they are going to spend money in a foolish, ridiculous way such as this.

If Representative Duncan had mentioned items such as the planned \$9 million for landscaping and offices palatial in size, the argument would have been even more telling. Ed.

quired and, in fact, is being initiated by the Foggy Bottom Association. (The Foggy Bottom Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC 2A) has "joined" the Association in this matter.) An application has been filed with the HPRB to designate the Western Presbyterian Church, at its present location, 1906 H Street, NW, as an historic landmark and to nominate it to the National Register of Historic Places. A hearing has been scheduled on December 18, 1991 at 9:30 a.m. (at the Carnegie Library, 8th & K Streets, NW) by the HPRB to determine whether such a designation should be granted and whether the property should be nominated to the National Register of Historic Places. If the HPRB finds that the Church should be designated as an historic landmark, the

Church would not then be able to move and it is uncertain what the IMF or the Church would do at that point. The earliest a decision would be reached by the HPRB is January 15th.

Therefore, at the present time, we are awaiting: (1) a decision by the Zoning Commission; (2) if necessary, a City Council hearing and decision on the alley closing and (3) a decision by the HPRB in connection with an historic designation of Western Presbyterian Church. You can be certain that I will continue to support the Foggy Bottom community on this matter and will keep you advised as each of these steps is decided. In the meantime, should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me or my chief of staff, Linda Greenan at 724-18058.



The Zoning Commission hearing drew a large (standing room only) and attentive crowd.

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## Thanks! It Was a Great Festival

On behalf of the Foggy Bottom Association, we would like to extend a special thank you to everyone in the community who helped make the 1991 Foggy Bottom Fall Festival an enormous success. The festival's success is attributed to the assistance from many people in the neighborhood. From the workers to the vendors and festival goers, thanks to all for a great day in Foggy Bottom.

In particular, hats off to the following restaurants for sponsoring food booths at the festival: *Daniel Kibler*, owner of Casey's Bar and Grill; *Tony Grillo*, manager of Friday's; and *Caesar Sabrina*, co-owner of Brazil Tropical. The food samplings ranged from hamburgers and chicken sandwiches to buffalo wings and Brazilian cuisine.

Lively musical entertainment was provided by local folk artist *Eileen Joyner* who resides in Columbia Plaza. Eileen donated her musical talents for the second year in a row. As always, *Joe Brockenberry* of St. Mary's Court was the disc jockey for the festival. Joe not only spun the discs, but delivered and set up the sound equipment.

Thanks to *Jane Lingo* and *Barry Dempsey*, both of George Washington University, for working with *Henrietta Zoltrow* of the Foggy Bottom Board to arrange for the festival's location at the "Metro Mall." It was a central area in Foggy Bottom and invited many new comers to the festival. We appreciate GW's cooperation on the logistical arrangements. Also, thanks to GWU Medical Center and St. Mary's Court for not only lending tables for the festival, but for setting up and cleaning up as well.

The silent auction sponsored by the Foggy Bottom Association was a huge success. Special thanks to the following local merchants for donating a variety of gift certificates and merchandise for the auction: *Casey's Bar and Grill*, *Donatello's Restaurant*, *Fiori's Cafe* located at The Inn at Foggy Bottom, *West End Cafe* in One Washington Circle Hotel, *Colonnade* in the ANA Hotel, *Riverview Restaurant* in the Watergate, *Phineas'*

*Prime Rib Restaurant* in Rockville, *Park Hyatt Hotel*, *Four Seasons Hotel*, *One Washington Circle Hotel*, *Tigani Hair Boutique*, *Walsh-McLellan Interiors*, *Watergate Beauty Salon*, *Flowers by Sandra Vonetes*, and *Watergate Menswear*. Special thanks to the following individuals who donated valuable items which were also sold at the silent auction: *Kerry Stowell* for the case of champagne, *Enid Beaumont* for the electric typewriter, *Jerry Danoff* for the medicine chest, and the anonymous donors of the Cannon Super 8 movie camera and the Sharp stereo-cassette tape deck.

Also thanks to all the residents in the area who donated items for the "giant" white elephant sale. The variety of kitchen and household items, jewelry, books, pictures, small appliances and clothing attracted a bargain-hunting crowd that reached record numbers this year.

Thanks to *Safeway*, *Giant Foods* and *First American Bank* who made generous financial contributions to the festival, *Seven-Eleven* who donated ice for the lemonade stand, and *Entenmann's* for baked goods. Speaking of baked goods, those home-baked items by Association members were barely priced before they were purchased by festival-goers. Thanks to all the bakers in the neighborhood for the sweet delights.

A variety of community services also sponsored informational booths at the festival. The following organizations provided Foggy Bottom residents and visitors with a fountain of information: *GWU Medical Center*, *GWU Community Relations*, *First American Bank*, *West End Library*, *Iona Senior Services*, *Columbia Hospital*, *West End Business Association*, *Police and Fire Departments*, and *Voter Registration*.

Last but not least a special thanks to all the Foggy Bottom Board and Association members who donated their time the day of the festival as well as time to plan the event, collected white elephant items, and distributed posters. On baked goods, thanks to *Henrietta Zoltrow* and *Harold Sarbacher*. At the White Elephant

How do you deal with the onslaught of holiday calorie-laden meals and snacks? Excuses such as "the diet starts after the New Year," are just that — excuses.

"Unfortunately, there is no simple magic formula for getting through the holiday season without blowing good nutritional habits," says Phyllis Barrier, nutrition coordinator at Group Health Association. "Watching your waistline is work that becomes even harder during the holidays."

Although there is no simple solution, Barrier does offer these "holiday eating" suggestions that may help out —

1. When planning holiday menus, determine which foods are your favorites, and substitute lower calorie foods. For example:

— At Chanukah, try Latkes (potato pancakes) with unsweetened applesauce and low fat yogurt instead of sour cream. Latkes can be fried in a small amount of vegetable oil or baked in the oven until crisp and brown.

— At Christmas, make presents other than homemade goodies. Help the kids make decorative dough ornaments instead of cookies. Try hot spiced cider instead of egg nog.

— At New Year's, give your guests foods lower in calories — crisp, raw vegetables

## Healthy Holiday Eating



with a yogurt dip, for example. And watch the champagne!

2. Take a close look at your recipes.

Trim calories by cutting fat. Most recipes call for more fat than is needed, so try using half the amount. Use skim milk instead of milk or cream. Try sherry or apple juice for basting. Make low fat gravy by removing the fat from pan drippings.

3. Stay with your exercise routine.

Plan your exercise time. You can get in a lot of walking while doing your holiday shopping. Try using stairs instead of elevators or escalators. Take the family for a walk after dinner. Make sure to get in some extra exercise to burn off those holiday calories!

4. Keep in mind these few extra tips to help cut back on your holiday calories.

— Cut back on breakfast and lunch to counter-balance any overeating at a special meal.

— Have a glass of water before meals.

— Eat slowly.

— Try smaller portions, especially when you are served hard-to-resist foods.

— Avoid those "extras," such as butter and margarine.

— Wait 20 minutes before going for seconds. It takes 20 minutes for your stomach to let your brain know that you have had enough to eat.

— Avoid that "stuffed feeling." The next morning you'll be so glad you did!

— Calories from alcohol add up! Try a white wine spritzer (three ounces of dry white wine and three ounces of club soda) as a low calorie alcoholic beverage. Diet sodas and mineral waters also make nice alternatives to alcohol.

— Put leftovers in the freezer to avoid temptation.

— For the party-goer: Arrive a little late so you'll have less time to eat. If it's a buffet, be the last in line so you'll be the last to finish eating. Focus on the people — not on the food!

— Feeling deprived? Pick one special occasion or celebration during the holiday season where you will not worry about what you eat. Eat "light" for one or two days prior and one to two days after the event.

table, kudos to *Marianna Moore*, *Charis Warchal*, *Ed Schleifstein*, *Mary Brewster*, *Ellie Becker*, *Barbara Kahlrow*, *Elayne DeVito*, *Grace Watson*, *Henrietta Zoltrow*, *Larry Miller*, *Richard Price*, *Janice Anderson*, and *Jenny Brake*. For selling T-Shirts, thanks to *Kerry Stowell* and *Chris Lamb*. At the Silent Auction table, thanks to *Maria* and *Sandra Vonetes* and *Laetitia Combrinck*. And at the lemonade stand, thanks to *Phil Stockslager*, *Mary Lou Hennessy* and *Mary Lamb*. Also thanks to



*Anne Lomas*, *Betty Olsen*, *Bob Charles* and *Cynthia Leonardo* for lending a helping hand or two where needed on the day of the festival.

And thanks to the *Sigma Chi Fraternity* for providing a few good men to help with setting up and cleaning up on the day of the festival, to *Sandra Vonetes* for the loan of her flower shop's delivery van to collect the white elephant items, to *Ellie Becker* for the use of her house to store the sale items, and to the following

taggers who priced all those white elephant items: *Mary* and *Bob Brewster*, *Elayne DeVito*, *Marianna Moore*, *Richard Price*, *Grace Watson*, and *Ellie Becker*.

Finally, it was a great festival and we appreciate the efforts by everyone in the neighborhood for making it yet another great day in Foggy Bottom.

*Elayne DeVito and Mary Lamb*  
Festival Co-Chairs

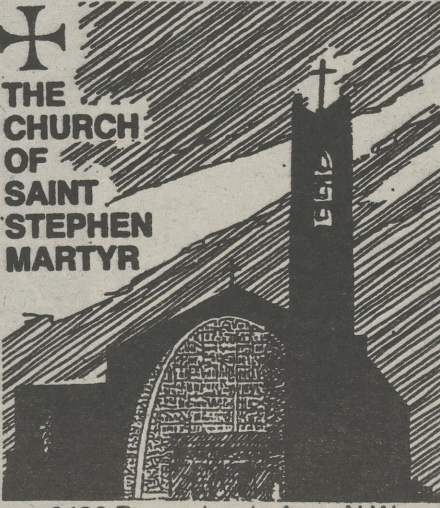



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# HAPPY HOLIDAYS



## Carol With King's Singers

The King's Singers, England's phenomenally successful vocal ensemble, invite the Washington community for FREE holiday caroling Tuesday, December 17th from 6:30 - 8:30 PM at the ANA Hotel at 2401 M Street in northwest DC.

The event is FREE, but tickets must be presented at the door. Tickets are available at all Olsson's Books & Records locations beginning December 1st. Reservations for tickets may also be made by calling (301) 369-4020 Ext. 415.

The world famous, six-man King's Singers ensemble will be in Washington for performances at the Kennedy Center December 18th and 19th. As a warm-up for these concerts, they are inviting DC area residents to join them for an informal songfest and Open House. All King's Singers records will be available for sale beginning December 1st at all Olsson's Books & Records locations and at the event, with all proceeds donated to Big Brothers/Big Sisters of the Washington Metropolitan.

Caroling with the King's Singers is being sponsored by Washington's Classical Music Choice, WGMS 103.5 FM; the ANA Hotel managed by Westin Hotels & Resorts in Washington; EMI Angel Records and Olsson's Books & Records.

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**SUNDAYS:** 7:30 am: Matins, Low Mass & Sermon; 9 am: Sung Mass, Sermon, Church School & Breakfast; 11:15 am: Solemn Mass, Sermon & Social Hour; 8 pm: Solemn Evensong, Sermon & Benediction

**WEEKDAYS:** 6:45 am: Matins; 7 am: Mass (also 9:30 Tues. & Sat., noon Th/Holy Days, 6:15 Wed/Holy Days); 6 pm: Evensong; Sat 5-6 pm: Confessions

*A warm welcome to our Foggy Bottom neighbors!*

## Creches on Display

An exhibition perfect for the season is showing at the Paul VI Institute for the Arts, 924 G Street, N.W. (Metro Center), through January 11. Being shown are 65 creches. Pictured is a fabric and paper creation by Sister Hildegard Urlacher of Bismarck, North Dakota.



## A Word to the Wise

Don't forget — holiday time is also, unfortunately, hold-up time. You will be wise to take extra precautions against purse-snatchers and pickpockets, who come out in force during this season of the year.

And be careful at home as well: over the Thanksgiving weekend a window-washer returned to a home where he had been working — ostensibly to collect tools — and tied up the woman resident and robbed the house.

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## St. Mary's Court's Christmas Party

The major event of the holiday season at St. Mary's will be the Annual Christmas Party on Wednesday, December 18, beginning at 7:30 p.m. This promises to be a truly outstanding event; it will feature John Wilson, Chairman of the City Council,

in his traditional role of Santa Claus. He will be assisted in the distribution of gifts to the residents by Mary Healy, in her traditional role of Mrs. Santa Claus. The gifts are contributions from community friends of St. Mary's Court who, in their own traditional role, provide small gifts for residents through their building councils or resident managers. St. Mary's Court thanks its community friends for this demonstration of support.

Residents and staff extend their best wishes to all for a joyful Holiday Season.

## Lufthansa Concert Benefits Homeless

This year's "Adventskon-zert" of German Christmas music organized by Lufthansa German Airlines benefitted the homeless people in Washington.

As in past years Lufthansa presented this joyous celebration of Christmas music of the Baroque at The United Church.

Music by Heinrich Schuetz, Michael Praetorius, Johann Sebastian Bach and other German Masters of the Baroque was performed by members of the world renowned Washington Bach Consort under the direction of founder/conductor J. Reilly Lewis with organist Dr. Stephen Ackert.

Helping to host the event were Lufthansa's Heinz Diedricksen and his wife Edith who live on Eye Street.

## Try Some Holiday Treats

### HOT BUTTERED CHRISTMAS PUNCH

- |                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 8 whole cloves                  | 1 quart orange juice                      |
| 3 pieces of crystallized ginger | 3 cups apple cider                        |
| 2 cinnamon sticks               | 1/2 cup fresh lemon juice                 |
| 8 whole allspice                | 2 tablespoons butter, cut in small pieces |
| 1 1/2 cups water                |   |
| 1 1/2 cups granulated sugar     |   |

1. Tie spices in a cheesecloth bag and boil uncovered for ten minutes in water. Remove from heat and remove bag of spices. Add sugar to hot water and stir until dissolved.
2. Add orange juice, lemon juice, and apple cider to the water and reheat.
3. Just before serving, melt butter on top of the hot punch. Serves ten. Wonderful to serve to all ages after a caroling party.

### SPICED TEA

- |  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| 6 teaspoons tea                            | 1 1/2 cups sugar |
| 2 cups boiling water                       | 2 quarts water   |
| 1 small can frozen lemon juice, undiluted  | 1 cinnamon stick |
| 1 small can frozen orange juice, undiluted |                  |

1. Pour boiling water over tea and let cool.
2. Strain. Then add remaining ingredients.
3. Simmer mixture for 20 minutes. If too strong, add more water. Add extra sugar to taste. Makes 18 cups.

### MULLED CIDER

- |                      |                                 |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 gallon apple cider | 4 teaspoons whole allspice      |
| 2 cups sugar         | 6 tablespoons fresh lemon juice |
| 48 cloves            | 1 cup fresh orange juice        |
| 12 cinnamon sticks   | 4 cups apple brandy             |

1. Bring to a boil all ingredients except the apple brandy.
2. Simmer ten minutes.
3. Add apple brandy and strain mixture.
4. Serve in a punch bowl. Makes 20 cups.

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND

A CHRISTMAS CONCERT

**Messiah**

(Part 1)

BY

GEORGE FREDERIC HANDEL

Sunday, December 15th, 1991

4:00 P.M.

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### SOLOISTS

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Lorenzo Smith, Tenor Michael Reedy, Baritone

Sponsor: \$100 Patron: \$50 Donation: \$10  
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Reception to follow concert in Parish Hall

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## A Foggy Bottom Cat Story

by Claire C. Cifci

She was brought to me in December, 1984, just before Christmas. Her young owners lived in a pet-restricted building and were referred to me as a possible care-giver. The young man unzipped his jacket to expose the bright-eyed 6-1/2 month old kitten which registered no fear nor anxiety — just round-eyed interest. I took the soft little black and white animal and nuzzled her neck. She slowly sniffed every inch of my face — fine little thready sniffs almost touching, but just a hair away from making contact.

The students could barely speak through their sadness of separation. Each added another point of the kitten's care or food preferences. Handing over the last of the supplies, they kissed the animal's head and hurried away with my firm promise that they could visit her anytime.

It would be the first time a cat lived with me. A perpetual dog owner, I wasn't sure what to expect from this adorable kitten. With typical curiosity, she explored every square foot and corner of the first floor. If I approached her, she didn't become defensive or frightened and

seemed to welcome my picking her up. Such a sweet, docile cat. I immediately named her "sweet" Charlotte.

My theory had always been that cats don't really think; they simply react. They cared nothing about humans nor did they bother to be interested in human activity. To my surprise and delight, Charlotte followed me wherever I moved about the house — sometimes choosing to jet-leap onto my shoulder to the best seat for viewing all in our domain. And I could swear she roused from wherever she spent her day just to greet me when I arrived home from work. She voiced soft little throaty sounds while curling about my ankles. There was no boisterous jumping up, or "turning inside out" (as my dogs had always behaved when I entered the house), but a definite attitude of satisfaction that I had returned at last.

Charlotte was a quiet, very patient cat. She never meowed for food, nor to go outside, but would sit patiently until I recognized her requests. She began going outdoors for short periods as the weather warmed. Always close to home, she came immediately when called. Affec-



"Sweet" Charlotte suns in Marge's garden.

tionate and attentive to visitors, my friends also classified her as the sweetest cat they'd ever met. While outdoor, every cat fancier was drawn to Charlotte and marvelled at her gentleness — allowing even virtual strangers to pick her up.

After being my only pet for four months, it was interesting to see how she would react to my new puppy. Nikki was a convulsive, roly-poly system of balled-up strings with ears and a tail. Charlotte stared wide-eyed from under a chair as the yipping wound-up furball insisted on some attention. A weak little hiss escaped the cat's throat and she raised a paw to threaten. I watched in disbelief as Charlotte lowered the "attack paw" then gently hockey-pucked a little plastic ball toward Nikki.

Their friendship and loyalty to one another filled all my waking hours with wonder as I obs-

erved them together. At play, Charlotte would tap Nikki's ear, swish her tail-end at his face and the chase was on: back and forth through the living room, upstairs, then down, the two raced until one or the other stopped dead. Nikki was never quite clean enough for Charlotte and at any given time the cat would hold Nikki down and lick his eyes or whatever part of his anatomy needed special grooming.

On our daily walks, it was common to see Charlotte following close behind. In summertime, for some reason, Charlotte chose to live outdoors and come home only for meals or if threatened by thunderstorms. But the moment the storm ceased, she paced like a caged lion until she was let out.

Wherever she stayed at night, Charlotte still listened for the bells on Nikki's collar, would then pounce from behind a house on 25th Street or through an opening near the Jefferson House, or from a path on Eye Street to join us for the remainder of those pre-dawn walks before I left for work. The general routine was to end the walk at Circle Arms Apartments where we cut through the garage, then Nikki and Charlotte played their game of race and tag until we reached the house for breakfast.

Snows Court was Charlotte's kingdom. She visited any patio, chose any car to lounge on (or in if the window was down). She especially enjoyed basking in the sun on Marge's garden path or her front steps inviting anyone so inclined to rub her exposed belly.

One recent summer, Charlotte was noticeably absent from home for long periods but apparently aware of all the activity in the house. On this particular evening, Nikki had emergency surgery on the living

room bar. As the veterinarian inserted the needle to administer anesthesia, Nikki screamed piteously. From out of nowhere, Charlotte appeared at the patio door meowing frantically. (This was unusual in itself since she never did more than whimper.)

She gave one leap up on the bar to sniff at the site of Nikki's pain. She sniffed at the surgeon then sat stiffly on guard throughout the entire procedure. Operation completed, Nikki remained limp and unconscious, barely breathing. I knew Charlotte would want to return outdoors once the operation was over so I held the door open and thanked her for "assisting" the doctor. But she didn't jump down to leave. I stood mesmerized as Charlotte gently lowered herself and stretched her body alongside Nikki to watch over him. Occasionally she sniffed his inert form but continued the incredibly heart warming vigil until late that night.

She would not leave his side until I finally carried him upstairs to be monitored from my own bed. Not until that moment did Charlotte indicate that she must leave again.

All this background serves to emphasize how the present turn of events which altered Charlotte's behavior seem more bizarre:

It was inevitable that we would move from Snows Court and, having heard of problems with cats if they're uprooted, special considerations were mandatory before the new residence would qualify. Miraculously, a home became available just two alley streets away — the area which I've coveted ever since I "found" it more than ten years ago. Complete with patios, fences, trees, and many hiding places, it was ideal. The cats (we must include Salome, but hers is

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Lillian Huddles with Charlotte

another story) could still go to Snows Court to play.

For two months prior to the final move in August, we carried small boxes to the new home and Charlotte often came along to explore the premises. Everyone was confident she would settle in without any trauma.

But early in June, Lillian appeared in Snows Court. One of the homeless, she set up camp at the rear of St. Paul's Church — right in the parking lot — where she could survey all who passed by. It didn't take long for Lillian to notice the many cats and their habits but she was attracted to Charlotte and pursued the cat with a vengeance. If Charlotte sought cooler spots in a garage, Lillian moved her chair to follow. When a friend would stop to pet the cat, she shouted at them vehemently, "Stop that!" or "Put her down — that's my cat!" To sever any link between Charlotte and me, Lillian removed the expensive collar and St. Francis I.D. tag so that no one would know she had an owner.

If I or any of my friends attempted to pick up Charlotte, Lillian would scoop up the cat and run. At times, she left the Court entirely, taking Charlotte with her. Despite my anger when Lillian began feeding the cat, she simply grinned but con-

tinued to coax Charlotte away from home to eat.

Following the final move, we frequently brought Charlotte to the new home but she'd never stay long. Locked inside, she paced continuously while eliciting a constant muffled growl of restlessness, so it seemed feasible to allow her to live on the Court for the summer. I would go every morning and evening to be sure she was fed properly, or to bring a favorite treat. Long time friends informed me that Lillian would not allow them to come near Charlotte.

Rarely was the cat seen lounging in the lovely serenity of Marge's garden path. Lillian clutched Charlotte in her lap when anyone approached to pet the animal, or carried her in another direction.

In time, a bond was cemented between Charlotte and Lillian — so strong a bond that the cat absolutely ignored Nikki and me.

On one of our routine early dawn walks, I called to Charlotte but she turned away. I spoke softly and picked her up. To my shock and despair, she clawed, scratched and fought me until I threw her down. A crazed, strange Charlotte attacked my ankles spitting hideously. Emotionally broken, I knew this was the end for Charlotte and me. Since then, I've attempted to divorce early images of her from

my thoughts. My hostility toward Lillian became a viable source that needed to be reined in each time I saw her.

Nikki and I continue to walk through the Court every morning just to check on Charlotte's status. One morning, as we came through the garage, some conditioned response must have surged through Charlotte: at the sound of Nikki's bells, she came to meet us and gently sniffed Nikki's mouth. She tapped his ear, swished her back-end in front of him indicating their old chasing game, then headed straight for the old house. Just like old times. I crumpled inside.

It's getting colder now and the Charlotte I knew enjoyed the comforts of a warm, soft bed. On a particularly suddenly cold and rainy night, we drove to the Court to be sure the cat was warm and dry. The sight we encountered will be indelibly etched in my mind: there was Lillian huddled far into the Church doorway. Shivering in a light jacket herself, she used her "best" down jacket to cover Charlotte who snuggled comfortably on Lillian's lap.

We went back home to get a blanket for them and on the way, my son made this profoundly simple statement: "Lillian needs Charlotte more than you do." Who knows? Perhaps Charlotte's intuitive need to nurture (as with Nikki) sensed Lillian's aloneness. My approach to Lillian has swung 180 degrees as I am confident she is taking good care of Charlotte.

There is no conclusion to this story yet because we have no idea where Lillian will go when winter comes. She is already having problems signing up for a shelter and no shelter will allow her to bring a pet. But neither she nor Charlotte can live on the parking lot in zero weather.

## SIDEWALK TALK

by: Betty Olsen

George and Ann Higgins are talking about their cross country trip when they "rode the rails." Normally they wave to a friend or two from their abode on Eye Street but this time when they waved all America waved back.....Cute is the word for Claire Ciftci's tea cup white poodle, Nikki, but when you see him sitting in his car seat of white lamb's wool, he is.....sooooo cute you almost can't stand it. Take a peek when they drive by.....At the FB Festival bought a large oil of a barn with wagon parked alongside and was pleasantly surprised when I unwrapped it to find it was done by a Foggy Bottom resident, Nina Johnston.....A word to the wise. Mr. Blahoney, one of the amiable doormen at Watergate East, has donned his long johns early this year so be ready for.....the frost is on the pumpkin time.....Speaking of pumpkins did you see Watergate East's Jack-o-Lantern all aglow?

Jimmy Molinelli celebrated his 90th birthday in October.....speaks well of staying active in community affairs.....Jane Lingo of GWU is every where these days.....at Lisner Series to hear Monty Alexander's jazz, FBA meeting, ANC meeting, busssssy.....Lingo was elected president of the American News Women's Club recently.....She certainly has the credentials....Fact for the day: Did you know when the Lisner was built in the 1940's that it seated more than any auditorium in the city?.....Met Eve Gresser, Director Volunteer Services of Columbia Hospital, who has worked on community newspapers before and had lots and lots of praise for the *Foggy Bottom News*. Thanks Eve, we needed

that.....

An exhibit called "Portraits, Inside — Out" is showing recent paintings by FB's Judith Tumbelaka Bell. The show, at Skewers, 1663 P Street, N.W., will continue through January 15. The artist has a studio on MacArthur Boulevard and lives at the Watergate.

Most complimentary write up, close-up and personal, of Mignon C. Smith in the Birmingham News. Smith is a resident of Foggy Bottom and The Heart of Dixie.....Also did you see the write up of Chris and Mary Lamb in *By George*.....I didn't know, did you, that Sandra Vonetes has a twin sister, Maria. Met her recently and did a double take.....literally.....

Ambassador and Mrs. Morton Abramowitz have returned to our area from his diplomatic duties in Turkey. They are now residents of The Plaza.....Watergate East celebrated its Silver Anniversary this month with a reception in the lobby of the 600 New Hampshire Building. Did I say 25th?.....How time flies!

Michael Mears won as a door prize at the recent Realtors' Fair James Goode's book *Best Addresses*. Goode is the ex-curator of the Smithsonian and has written other books as well. One that should be of particular interest to us in the Bottom right now is his *Historical Guide - Capital Losses* which has to do with the buildings that were razed before people voiced loudly their concerns about Historic Preservation. Don't forget the meeting on Historic Preservation concerning the status of The Western Presbyterian Church December 18th. See in the News elsewhere the date, time and place. See you there and.....on the sidewalk.....let's talk.....turkey (couldn't resist that turn of phrase) this time of the year.

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## 2501 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE



### AN OPEN LETTER TO THE RESIDENTS AND BUSINESS OWNERS OF FOGGY BOTTOM

Dear Neighbors:

For the past two years, Chatham Lake Associates has been working towards development of a mixed use project at 2501-2513 Pennsylvania, which we believe will enhance the historical character and aesthetic quality of Foggy Bottom. During that time, we have worked diligently to keep the neighborhood aware of our plans and activities through its Advisory Neighborhood Committee, as well as the Foggy Bottom Association.

Unfortunately, you have not always received a fair and accurate portrayal of the situation from those who oppose this development. They would have you believe we have acted in flagrant disregard for the law and the neighborhood. This is simply not true.

You have been told we carried out demolition without proper notice. What you haven't been told is that the ANC and Foggy Bottom Association knew of our intentions to raze 2509-2513 Pennsylvania for over a year and a half prior to the day we acted with a valid demolition permit.

You have been told we don't care about preserving Foggy Bottom's historically significant structures. What you haven't been told is that we, on our own initiative, sought landmark status for 2501 Pennsylvania.

You have been told we are just another developer only interested in the bottom line. What you haven't been told is that we have been working with designated neighborhood representatives for over 12 months, and have received approvals from the District of Columbia Preservation League, Office of Planning, Historic Preservation Review Board, and Board of Zoning. By incorporating existing buildings and reducing the project's scale, we have chosen to forego profit in favor of retaining the appropriate historical character of the neighborhood.

As we move forward, we will continue to develop the project with our neighbors' interests in mind. We are proud to be planning a development that will enhance Foggy Bottom's innate charm, not ignore it. We believe that, through our continuing dialogue, we will deliver a finished product we can all be proud of.

Sincerely,

Chatham Lake Associates